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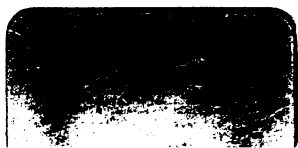
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THE NATIONAL
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story, Possessions and Prospects

OF THE

Maryland Historical Society:



BY

BRANTZ MAYER.

Fund - Publication, No. 1.

History, Possessions and Prospects

OF THE

Maryland Historical Society:



INAUGURAL DISCOURSE

OF

BRANTZ MAYER,

AS PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY;

Baltimore, March 7th, 1867.

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BY JOHN MURPHY, BALTIMORE, 1867.

ADDRESS.



WOULD do great injustice to my feelings, gentlemen of the Maryland Historical Society, if I did not, on taking this Chair, avail myself of the earliest moment to offer my thanks for the great honor conferred by electing me your President.

It is about twenty-three years ago, that, on the 27th of January, 1844, some eighteen or twenty gentlemen assembled in the office of the Maryland Colonization Society, to organize an institution "for the purpose of collecting the scattered materials of the early History of this State and for other collateral objects." The room was in what was known at that day as the "Post Office Building," at the north-east corner of Fayette and North streets. It is now torn down. As nearly as I can recollect them, the persons present at that gathering—most of whom had been personally invited to attend—were, our late President,

John Spear Smith, Robert Gilmor, Sr., Charles F. Mayer, Bernard U. Campbell, John L. Carey, William A. Talbott, Fielding Lucas, Jr., John J. Donaldson, Robert Carey Long, and Sebastian F. Streeter, all of whom are dead; while the survivors are John H. B. Latrobe, Dr. James Hall, J. Morrison Harris, John P. Kennedy, George Wm. Brown, Dr. Joshua J. Cohen, Dr. Stephen Collins, Frederick Wm. Brune, Jr., Captain Robert Leslie and myself. At that meeting the organization was completed; for, having considered the matter maturely in advance, we were prepared to adopt a constitution and by-laws, drawn up by me with care, the original draft of which I have the pleasure of presenting to-night to the society. In order to make these fundamental instruments as complete as possible, I obtained printed or written copies of the constitutions and laws of all the Historical Societies I was able to reach by correspondence, and digested them in consultation with Mr. John P. Kennedy and our late Recording Secretary, Mr. Streeter. These documents I have also preserved, and now present to the society. The committee which was appointed, reported the draft as offered, and the document was at once heartily adopted by the citizens present, who saw in it a promising nucleus for the only literary organization of the kind that had ever been formed in our state or city.

The Constitution and By-laws being accepted, our preparatory meeting adjourned to the 1st of February, after selecting a committee to nominate suitable persons as the first officers of the society, to be balloted for at our next assemblage. I remember that much care was taken in this delicate duty by the judicious committee, which consisted of Mr. J. H. B. Latrobe, Mr. George Wm. Brown, and Captain Robert Leslie. Indeed, so heedful were these gentlemen that I find it recorded they re-assembled the originators of the society on the 31st of January, in order to consult over the names they intended to propose to the general meeting on the following day.

Accordingly, on the 1st of February, 1844, John Spear Smith was elected President; John Van Lear McMahon—the Historian of Maryland—Vice-President; Brantz Mayer, Corresponding Secretary; Sebastian F. Streeter, Recording Secretary; and Stephen Collins, Librarian.

This assemblage and vote occurred in the same small room of the Colonization Society in which our first meeting had been held; but as our numbers had already increased, a committee was chosen to obtain ampler accommodations; and, even before we separated that afternoon, the chairman reported in favor of a large adjoining apartment in the second story of the same old Post Office Building, wherein, the survivors of

the original organization will recollect, we met from the spring of 1844 to the spring of 1848, when we took possession of our present quarters. Of course we were as yet entirely without pecuniary means, and the list I present with the other papers deposited by me to-night, shows that a few of us contributed by very modest subscriptions to furnish our first lodgement with commendable economy.

But, gentlemen, it is pleasant to recollect the stimulus immediately given to literary taste in Baltimore by the establishment of this society. The first record of our Membership, published in 1844, shows there was hardly a gentleman in professional or mercantile life, noted for cultivation, who did not join us. I dare not detain you to describe our progress, step by step; or the various high tides and low tides that occurred in our history since 1844; or, the peculiar causes that, at times, have swelled, and, at times, diminished our membership. It is mainly to the institution of this society that we owe the existence of this **ATHENÆUM BUILDING**, which is held for us in perpetuity by trustees under a charter granted by the Legislature of Maryland at its December session of 1845.

The project of such an establishment had often been spoken of; but the first practical effort to realize it was made—after consultation with

Captain Robert Leslie and myself—by Mr. William Rodewald, who presented a scheme to our society and to the Library Company of Baltimore, of which I had at that time the honor to be President. Mr. Rodewald's plan was not entirely approved, but it initiated the movement, and deserves remembrance. After respectfully considering it, the two corporations thought the project so important that each of them appointed a committee of five of its members to examine it; and, after meeting in joint committee on the 15th of February, 1845, a plan of operations, *founded on public subscription as a free gift*, was adopted, and an address setting forth the objects of the building, signed by numbers of our leading citizens, was published in circulars as well as in the newspapers. It at once engaged public attention and sympathy. Twenty of our wealthy men subscribed five hundred dollars each, and the late George Brown added the one thousand which he had promised to bestow upon the subscription of ten thousand dollars, as a beginning. It is due to the memory of the late Osmond C. Tiffany to say that he was the indefatigable chairman of the committee on subscriptions, and that he was zealously aided in his solicitations by several gentlemen, but, especially, by Mr. Charles J. M. Eaton. Many were doubtful of success, while some openly sneered at the idea that a community like ours would devote forty or

fifty thousand dollars to a project promising no pecuniary return ; but the committee was not disheartened by doubt or derision. In less than three years the money was subscribed, the lot bought, the building erected, and the societies installed in their apartments, all of which were furnished by the same *free gift* process that founded the edifice. When I had the honor to deliver the inaugural address, at the formal opening and dedication of the building on the 23d of October, 1848, not a dollar of debt remained charged against the establishment ; while, in conformity with the expressed wish of the contributors, we had the great satisfaction of accommodating the Mercantile Library Association of the Young Men of Baltimore, by a lease forever, at a nominal rent, of the entire ground floor of the edifice.

The cost of the Athenæum, and of furnishing our apartments as well as those of the late Baltimore Library Company, was about forty-five thousand dollars. When the Library Company became, some years after, unable to sustain itself suitably, its superb collection of books was conveyed to us, and its rights in the Athenæum fell to our society as the survivor.

Our collections in all departments had increased rapidly even before the removal to our present building. Rare contributions to our manuscripts and library were made at every monthly meeting.

The "Catalogue of the Manuscripts, Maps, Medals, Coins, Statuary, Portraits and Pictures, and an Account of the Library" of our society, made by Mr. Lewis Mayer, Assistant Librarian, in 1854, shows remarkably rich lists in each of these departments. The manuscripts described were especially valuable; and among them, first in importance, are the "Maryland Proprietary and State Papers," from 1637 to 1776, in bound volumes, and similar unbound documents, from 1638 to 1778, in portfolios, all of which have been entrusted to our guardianship by a resolution of our Legislature at its session of 1846-7. Next in value come the "Gilmor, Maryland Papers,"—presented to us by one of our earliest members and contributors, the late Robert Gilmor, Sr.,—the greater part of which had been given to him by Mr. Ridout, of Annapolis, whose father was secretary of Governor Horatio Sharpe. These papers cover portions of our colonial history, and contain many valuable documents concerning the French War, and Mason and Dixon's Line. The "Peabody Index to the Maryland Documents in the State Paper Office, London," is an invaluable series of abstracts and descriptions of *one thousand seven hundred and twenty-nine documents*, extending from 1626 to 1780, exhibiting a chronological reference to the complete manuscript Colonial History of Maryland. These transcripts were

made at the cost of our benefactor, Mr. George Peabody; presented to us by him enclosed in eleven *solander* cases, and are said to contain an account of everything attainable on the subject, in the State Paper Office in London, at the period when they were made. Still, there are valuable MSS. relating to Maryland in the British Museum, the Bodleian Library, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and elsewhere in England, none of which are described in the present index. It should be one of our duties to supply this deficiency.

I must not detain you by recapitulating the entire contents of our collection, and will do no more than mention the "Gist Papers," the "Purviance Papers," and the "Miscellaneous Maryland MSS.," which are replete with original letters of historical value concerning the Revolutionary period.

Our series of American Maps is extraordinary, when it is recollected how little our attention has been especially directed to this department of knowledge. Many very valuable, curious and rare coins and medals had been presented and preserved from the beginning of the society; but our collection was enriched in 1852 by a gift from General Towson of nineteen case-volumes of coins and medals, numbering in all two hundred and fifty-one specimens, firmly set and bound in

boards, so as to exhibit the obverse and reverse through the glasses which cover both sides of each case and protect the specimens from touch or injury. This collection was formed in Europe by Joel Barlow, author of our American epic, "The Columbiad," while Minister to France, and at his death passed to his brother-in-law, Col. Bomford, upon whose decease General Towson became its owner and organizer, under the guidance of Mr. D. E. Groux, of Washington, an experienced numismatist. It is accompanied by an admirable *catalogue raisonné*, and is a metallic history of many nations and various ages, comprising Greek medals, Roman medals, and medals of the lower Empire, from 300 B. C. to A. D. 685;—Arabian, Circassian, Mogul, Morocco, and Turkish coins;—coins and medals of great beauty and rarity of almost every European, Asiatic and American government;—a superb medal of Gustavus Adolphus;—while, for historical purposes, the unbroken series of silver medals of French sovereigns and illustrious men, from the Merovingian kings in 420 to the Bourbons in 1793, is probably the most valuable of this beautiful cabinet.

On the establishment of the Athenæum and our removal here, it will be recollected that we added the Fine Arts as a kindred pursuit to be cherished by our society, and built the large

gallery which adjoins this room for the accommodation of the pictures and statues we might acquire, as well as for yearly exhibitions of such meritorious works as might be obtained from artists and collectors by a standing committee of our members. Between the years 1848 and 1858 we had six exhibitions of pictures and statuary; and, with the avails, we have purchased a number of copies of master-pieces of the Italian school, remarkable for their fidelity to the originals in drawing, color and effect. The copies of the Communion of St. Jerome, and of the Martyrdom of St. Peter the Dominican, are absolute *fac-similes* of the pictures by Domenichino and Titian. Many other faithful copies have been presented to us by liberal members; so that the gallery we own has already become, what we desired it should be, the means of affording some of the best models in the country to industrious students.

Our publications have been quite numerous; but each of them has been issued only in pamphlet form, and, mostly, in the shape of annual Historical Discourses or occasional essays on Historical subjects or personages. In quantity they fill three octavo volumes, and have been so much sought for in a collected shape that complete sets were lately sold at the north for forty dollars each. Some of the separate pamphlets have been so eagerly demanded by collectors and students

that the editions were long ago exhausted. No copies of the "Journal of Charles Carroll of Carrollton" during his journey to Canada, in 1776, as commissioner from Congress, with Chase, Franklin and the Rev. Dr. John Carroll, are now to be obtained. The "Sir Walter Raleigh," of the Hon. J. Morrison Harris; the "First Annual Oration, on History," by the late Hon. Charles F. Mayer; the "Tah-gah-jute, or, Logan and Captain Michael Cresap," and "Maryland Two Hundred Years Ago," by the late Sebastian F. Streeter, are also exhausted. Copies of other valuable publications are rapidly diminishing, and I regret to say that, in some instances, our issues seem to have been given away too lavishly, so that I hope the committee on publication, recently instituted, will hereafter take the matter of distribution into their especial and economical guardianship. Let me observe, that the beautiful style of typography in which Mr. Carroll of Carrollton's Journal was published by our colleague and printer, Mr. John Murphy, in 1845, seems to have given the *first* incentive to that taste for the exquisite printing of rare Historical Papers which, at present, is so apparent among our friends at the north, and, especially, in New York.

This brief and rapid narrative exhibits, I think, a record of establishment, collection and publication of which our society, with its limited means,

need not be ashamed. It will be a sufficient answer to the cavillers who ask, "What has the Maryland Historical Society done?" Our library, large and rich even before the reception of the superb collection of the Baltimore Library Company, now contains about fifteen thousand volumes in all branches of literature; and, though not even with the age in modern productions, abounds in the rare, standard and classic books of America and Europe. Indeed, I believe it may be safely asserted that, with the exception of the Massachusetts Historical Society, probably no other Historical institution in the union has such varied and valuable collections as ours, or so fair a prospect of usefulness.

It may be remembered that about ten years ago an effort was made to procure an *endowment fund* by subscription; nor do I doubt that its promoters would have been successful, had not the project been paralyzed by the barren scheme of union with the Peabody Institute which was proposed to us in 1857. It would be ungenerous now to restate the causes of the failure of Mr. Peabody's design, so kindly meant by him at the outset. Especially would this be improper, since that large-hearted man has seen fit, while remodelling his Institute in Baltimore, to endow this Society by the liberal, independent gift of twenty thousand dollars. Both corporations, in

my judgment, will be benefited by the separation. The donation to us seems ample to secure the *permanence* of the Maryland Historical Society, even if our membership had not been recently swelled to three hundred active contributors, and, if we had not, also, contrived, by rigid economy in our days of depression, to lay by from our savings nearly four thousand dollars. This private accumulation, let me say, was mainly fostered and guarded from all encroachments by our late President, General John Spear Smith, who, for twenty-two years, was uninterruptedly re-elected to the office he held to the day of his death. His last official act was to endorse the order for the transfer of the stock presented to us by Mr. Peabody, while, perhaps the last note he wrote was the announcement to me of the endowment, with a cordial congratulation that the society we had so long cherished was, at last and forever, beyond the reach of vicissitude.

And now, in taking the chair he occupied so long, so honorably, and so advantageously, let me unite with Mr. Vice-President Latrobe in his just eulogium on General Smith's fidelity to the society. I knew him and his labors for us well. It happened that, in this busy town, he was one of the few cultivated men who were not chained to some professional or commercial pursuit, so that it may be said he enjoyed a command of his time if not

of entire leisure. From the day of his election as President—save while he was Chief Justice of the Orphans' Court—General Smith was always to be found in this or the adjoining room from ten in the morning until three in the afternoon. Without annoying his subordinates, he insisted on and preserved order in the care, use and exhibition of the society's collections. To these he added largely by gifts of books, and laid the foundation of our governmental and congressional publications by presenting the accumulations made by his honored father, General Samuel Smith, who so long represented Maryland in the United States' Senate. How he did the honors of the society to strangers and members who visited our apartments for curiosity or study, all will recollect with grateful pleasure who were familiar with his courtly demeanor, or, received instruction from his rich and ready memory. Well does he deserve to be gratefully remembered by his early colleagues who still survive, while I sincerely hope that our younger friends, who have recently joined us and are to become the future pillars of our institution, will join with those who knew him best and longest in bestowing such a memorial as may keep the recollection of his services and character forever fresh in a society to which he was devoted. I do not know how I can better pledge myself to

strive to merit the position to which you have, with so much unanimity, called me, than by attempting to catch his honest zeal for your service as well as the bland manner with which he led or controlled your discussions.

Gentlemen, before I close I beg leave, but in no reforming or intrusive spirit, to make a few suggestions.

I hope that more attention will be paid,—now that our means are sure and ample,—to the gradual increase of our library and publications. We have much of value in our manuscript collections proper to be published, and we can obtain a great deal more if necessary. The report I made, on the 1st of January, 1866, to Governor A. W. Bradford, of my “examination, classification and partial arrangement of some of the State papers of Maryland, of the Proprietary, Royal and Revolutionary periods,” which his Excellency had entrusted to me, shows that, with all our losses at Annapolis, through time and neglect, the archives of Maryland are still rich in historical materials. If the State shall continue to disregard these manuscript treasures, and decline to have them suitably bound, indexed, preserved in suitable cases, and finally published, an application by our society to the Legislature may probably enable us to perform this duty to our ancestors.

I have already taken the liberty to desire our Assistant Librarian to examine and report, as soon as practicable, the condition of our congressional books, which, up to a certain period, I know was almost continuously complete from the foundation of the government. Such, also, was the state of our rare and large collection of bound newspapers. The United States publications of the last six or eight years, if not already on our shelves, can be supplied from the departments at Washington, and I shall take pleasure in helping to secure them.

Let me add a few words about our collection of *pamphlets*, comprising many of the rarest character and of the earliest dates in American history. We have large quantities bound, indexed, and catalogued continuously, to about 1856, since which the additions have been numerous, but are still unclassified and unbound. The plan originally devised of cataloguing, binding and indexing our pamphlets, was perfectly simple, and makes every tract possessed by us immediately accessible.

I do not think that our collection of the proceedings, papers and essays issued by our sister Historical Societies approaches completeness. This is much to be regretted, as these local publications of rare documents and commentaries are of the greatest importance to the student of American history. Our present Librarian, Mr. Jacobsen,

has recently assumed the arduous duties of his office, and has, at once and admirably, rearranged the library so as to display it properly. I am sure he will unite with me in appreciating the worth of these local issues; and, in conjunction with our Corresponding Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Dalrymple, will inform the proper officers of other Historical Societies of our wants, so that the deficiencies may be supplied without delay.

Several years ago, I intimated to this society that I desired to present to it the entire collection of Mexican antiquities and curiosities, made by myself and my friend, the late Captain Lewis Brantz, during our residences in Mexico in 1832 and 1842. This collection, though not very large, is extremely valuable, and could not be replaced. Our American collectors, during the war with Mexico, swept the field; yet, few of them obtained cabinets comparable with mine. I am ready to transfer it to these rooms whenever the society shall be disposed to comply with the only two conditions I attached to my offer, namely, that the preservation of the collection intact should be guaranteed, and that it should be placed and kept under lock in a special cabinet.

I am not without hope that the committee on the gallery will, in the course of the next autumn, find it convenient to make an exhibition of pictures and statuary, which has been so long omitted

from circumstances over which that zealous and tasteful body of our members had no control. There has been no exhibition since the fall of 1858. Since then, our private galleries have been increased in number; hundreds of fine pictures have been purchased by our citizens; and I understand it is likely that the artists of New York, Philadelphia and Boston will be willing to place at our disposal some of their choicest and latest works.

It is our custom to intermit the monthly meetings of our society in June of each year, after which we do not re-assemble until October. I suggest that a committee be appointed to select eight members, each of whom will pledge himself to read, consecutively, an historical paper, at each of the eight monthly meetings between October, 1867, and the following June of 1868. The dates of meeting, the names of readers, and the subjects of their essays, should be printed on cards and sent to all our members at the beginning of the season. I think it would not be an unwelcome innovation, if, at a certain hour of each evening, and after the ordinary business shall have been transacted, we hereafter admit ladies to partake with us the pleasure and instruction of these lectures.

The "Peabody Library and Publishing Fund," as well as our increased resources from membership,—and, I hope, from voluntary contributions

by our wealthy and intelligent citizens,—will, hereafter, enable us to add valuable works to our library, as well as to diffuse our manuscripts by the press. It cannot be denied, that if there was not of late a paralysis, there has been at least a lack of activity in this society. From 1860 to 1865 our membership diminished, and our monthly meetings were often attended by no more than ten or twelve persons. During the war men were more concerned in its sorrows, anxieties and conduct than in its literature. They were more engaged in making history than in recording it, for the national life-struggle of a great civil war is exclusively absorbing. But, now that peace has come,—while cultivating renewed union and fellowship,—all should strive to illustrate the period by gathering and preserving those publications which having been designed for local use or temporary influence, are commonly thrown aside as worthless when their purpose has either failed or been effected. All the pamphlets, handbills, broadsides, narratives, memoirs, complaints, controversies, newspapers, biographies and histories belonging to the epoch,—and, mainly, those issued in Maryland,—should be gathered, classified, bound, indexed, and placed in a separate department of our library. If each State shall do this in regard to its own literature of the war, the future historian's task will be greatly

lightened; for, while no other civil conflict has covered so large a territorial space, none has occurred since modern civilization afforded such opportunities and license for the diffusion of facts and the utterance of opinion. The neglect of *contemporaneous* collections in great national crises,—especially of what was regarded as the ephemeral publications,—has always been regretted by eminent writers. Yet these, in fact, are the best reflectors of the time. Although they do not always and singly express the exact truth, they nevertheless *in the aggregate* disclose it by displaying the motives and sentiments, the firmness and weakness, the patriotism and passion of the great as well as the humble actors in the tragic drama. They are the first outlines of history divulging its secrets;—undisguised, because they are the expression of the living impulses of the hour; reliable, because they are warm from the eager and striving brain.

Our accomplished colleague, the Honorable J. Russell Bartlett,—who has so long been honored, by all parties, with the Secretaryship of State of Rhode Island, and has added such treasures to historical learning,—devoted himself to this branch of collecting from the outbreak of the war. His industry and success have been wonderful. The vast extent of the “Literature of the Rebellion,”—as he calls his published catalogue of the books and pamphlets relating to the civil

war,—may be judged from the fact that it is a royal octavo volume of 477 pages, embracing 6,073 titles. It is as thorough and complete a catalogue as could be made so soon after the war; yet, it may, perhaps, be regretted that the publication was not delayed until the southern States could be completely canvassed for their publications during the conflict. In our own library we already possess many of the contemporary issues of Maryland in regard to the war; and, before it is too late, I trust the library committee will render a great service, by charging some of its members with the special duty of supplying the numerous deficiencies. Let them regard nothing, in this respect, as too trifling for preservation,—for *the truth* may be concealed in a rejected trifle;—and, while adding to the literature of the Rebellion, and to the collections of the Revolutionary war, I trust the committee will not neglect the printed matter and MSS. relative to the War of 1812, in which, I think, our archives are extremely deficient. The papers of Colonel Armistead, of General Winder, and of General Samuel Smith,—officers who commanded at Fort McHenry, at Bladensburg, in the entrenchments around Baltimore, and at North Point,—ought to afford abundant materials for our local history, which the families of the deceased would, probably, on proper application, gladly surrender to this society for assured preservation.

Our venerable colleague, the Rev. Dr. Ethan Allen, recently mentioned to me that it is quite possible our gallery of *historical portraits* may be richly increased by the addition of several that might be had by asking for them. In November, 1865, Dr. Allen was a visitor at "Mount Airey," the family seat of Dr. Calvert, a descendant of the founder of Maryland. In the halls of that mansion Dr. Allen observed superb portraits of Charles, Lord Baltimore, and his *two* successors, as well as of Mr. Calvert and his wife who were the first proprietors of this well-known estate in Prince George county. These portraits were painted by the great masters of the art in England at their respective dates. In a conversation with Dr. Calvert, allusion was made, not only to the value of such historical portraits and to the vicissitudes of American families by which their safety was endangered, but to the permanence that was secured by depositing them with societies like ours. Dr. Allen understood his friend, Dr. Calvert, as at once assenting to his views, and also as authorizing him to mention the subject to us in order that the portraits might, if we were willing, be entrusted to our custody. Dr. Allen spoke of it to our late President, General Smith; but, doubtless, owing to ill-health, which latterly kept him from our night-meetings, the subject was not brought to your notice. I am

glad to see Dr. Allen present at our meeting to-night; and, while thus drawing your attention to the matter as worthy of prompt attention, I am at liberty to say that our colleague is willing to serve on any committee you may think proper to appoint in relation to it.

Indeed, few Marylanders are more familiar with the *old families* of Maryland,—their portraits and their papers,—than our venerable friend who made these suggestions, and whose genial manners and learned researches in our civil and ecclesiastical history have made him a welcome guest in every quarter of this State. He tells me,—in spite of the recent raid on garrets for old paper and rags,—that the lofts and store-rooms of mansions in the counties still teem with family papers, rare books, and valuable pamphlets, all of which, he doubts not, might be put at the disposal of our society, if some one would take the trouble to seek them and promise their preservation. If a committee be appointed to negotiate for the Calvert portraits, I hope that Dr. Allen and his colleagues will be empowered to solicit such donations and to give such assurances. I am quite sure that his great information and personal influence will be at the service of his colleagues and the society.

We should not be neglectful of Maryland portraits; and, indeed, we can hardly reproach ourselves with carelessness in this respect, when we

observe the many oil paintings of departed heroes, statesmen and scholars that adorn these walls. Yet, there are large numbers of *engraved, photographed and lithographed portraits* of citizens of this State, distinguished in the past as well as present, that ought to be secured at once. These should be arranged and securely attached in folio scrap-books,—a volume to be appropriated to each class of professions or occupations,—and each portrait catalogued and indexed as soon as placed permanently in the volume. By following the same system as that adopted for our pamphlets, any desired portrait would be immediately found.

Another matter I respectfully submit for consideration,—and I am sorry to think it *may* be because I am not so young as I was twenty-three years ago, when we instituted this society. Permit me to say, that some gentlemen “of my time of life,” in talking over this matter privately, have concluded that it would be more comfortable and convenient to meet in our large library below than to wind up our long and spiral stair-way “to the stars.” We are cramped by an assemblage of fifty or sixty members in this narrow apartment. I think it would be an acceptable change, if we convened hereafter for our monthly meetings, as well as for our *soirées*, in the lower and larger chamber.

It has always been a goodly English habit to strengthen charitable and intellectual institutions by social reunions at stated periods, so that the annual dinners of British societies are looked forward to as epochs of refreshing utility. The 6th of April, 1850; the 10th of May, 1851; the 17th of February, 1853; the 22d of December, 1853; the month of February, 1857, when we greeted Mr. Peabody, and of April, 1858, when we entertained the American Association for the Advancement of Science, cannot be forgotten by our members. These occasions were marked by the frank interchange of generous sentiments among our own people, while they were also distinguished by the presence of eminent citizens from all parts of our then undisturbed country, whose eloquent voices spoke of a common liberty, glory, and interest, as the enduring cement of our republic. These festivities fostered kindliness; and, uniting representative men from all quarters, made social life as well as history ancilliary to patriotism. Toombs and Stephens, of Georgia, Thompson, of South Carolina; Crittenden, of Kentucky; and Webster, of Massachusetts, met, at our board, on the cordial platform of indissoluble union. Their national speeches are recorded among the published proceedings in the papers of the day, and it is to be hoped that such occasions of wholesome concord may be renewed and regularly continued by our society.

In one thing let us heartily unite. *Let each member determine to add another member to our list during the coming year.* We have now three hundred active associates; why could not, at least, one hundred and fifty more be elected before the end of 1867? The history of Maryland is a thing to be proud of. Our society has done much, as I have shown, in the two decades of its existence. Its possessions are large; its edifice belongs to it in perpetuity; its purposes are generous and intellectual; its members distinguished for their character and culture. We can hardly overestimate the worth of local institutions, which, in late years, have done so much in rescuing our perishable records. They show us what we may be by disclosing what we have been; they brighten the dim memories of the statesmen and soldiers who strove to found a true republic; they cherish *a love of country* without which patriotism degenerates into "politics;" and while each of them strengthens and polishes its separate link, unitedly they guard the endless chain of national union. It is an honor to belong to a society of such purposes and responsibilities. Let its existence and objects be fully displayed, and men will seek the distinction of membership, instead of requiring solicitation if not importunity.

I detained you longer than I intended, yet, it would be improper for me to sit down without noticing the sad and sudden affliction in which all have sympathized,—the death of JOHN HENRY ALEXANDER,—one of Maryland's purest gentlemen, one of the Nation's worthiest scholars. It is exactly a month since he stood here beside us apparently well, and eager for the society's progress. They who knew him best will promptly do honor to his memory by recording in our archives their affectionate testimony to his virtues and learning; but I am sure this tribute of regard and sorrow will be received as justly due in advance from your President.

At the monthly meeting of the Maryland Historical Society on Thursday evening, 7th March, 1867, Colonel BRANTZ MAYER, U. S. A., who, at the annual meeting of 7th February, 1867, had been elected President of the society in place of General JOHN SPEAR SMITH, lately deceased, returned thanks in an address for the honor conferred by electing him to fill the vacated chair. At the conclusion of his remarks, the Honorable Judge WM. FELL GILES remarked that the history of the society, its character, collections and objects were so clearly and admirably set forth in the address of Colonel Mayer, that he was sure he expressed the wishes of the members present by a motion for its publication. Its diffusion, he thought, would be of service to our society and to its influence and usefulness in gathering and preserving the materials of Maryland history.

Judge Giles's motion was seconded by JOHN SAURIN NORRIS, Esq., who proposed an amendment,—which Judge Giles accepted,—that, in compliment to the President, and, as an evidence of the society's appreciation of the permanent value of the information and suggestions contained in the address, it should form the first issue of the society from the PEABODY PUBLISHING FUND.

The motion was carried unanimously.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

OF THE

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

Commencing 20th June, 1844, and ending 1st June, 1867.

It has been thought advisable, for reference, to add to this paper a complete catalogue of all the publications of the society from its beginning to the present time.

1. CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, ETC., OF THE SOCIETY, 8th March, 1844.
2. HISTORICAL DISCOURSE. BY CHARLES F. MAYER,—First Annual Discourse,—20th June, 1844.
3. MEMOIR OF BENJAMIN BANNEKER, *the Colored Astronomer*. BY JOHN H. B. LATROBE, 1st May, 1845.
4. JOURNAL OF CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON ON HIS JOURNEY TO CANADA WITH SAMUEL CHASE, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, AND REV. DR. JOHN CARROLL, IN 1776. EDITED BY BRANTZ MAYER, 1st May, 1845.
5. GEORGE CALVERT, FIRST LORD BALTIMORE. BY JNO. P. KENNEDY,—Second Annual Discourse,—9th December, 1845.
6. LIFE AND CHARACTER OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH. BY J. MORRISON HARRIS,—Third Annual Discourse,—19th May, 1846.
7. MEMOIR OF MAJOR SAMUEL RINGGOLD, U. S. A. BY DR. J. WYNNE, 1st April, 1847.
8. COMMERCE, LITERATURE AND ART: Dedicatory Discourse of the Historical Society's ATHENÆUM BUILDING. BY BRANTZ MAYER, 23d October, 1848.
9. AMERICAN COLONIAL HISTORY. BY THOMAS DONALDSON,—Fourth Annual Discourse,—29th March, 1849.
10. A PAPER ON CALIFORNIA. BY J. MORRISON HARRIS, March, 1849.
11. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, J. SPEAR SMITH, 7th February, 1850.
12. ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF LIBERTY IN MARYLAND. BY GEO. WM. BROWN,—Fifth Annual Discourse,—12th April, 1850.
13. LIFE AND SERVICES OF GEN. OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS, OF THE MARYLAND LINE. BY OSMOND TIFFANY, 6th March, 1851.
14. MEMORIALS OF COLUMBUS AND MARTIN BEHAIM. BY ROBERT DODGE, 3d April, 1851.
15. TAH-GAH-JUTE; OR, LOGAN AND CRESAP. BY BRANTZ MAYER,—Sixth Annual Discourse,—9th May, 1851.
16. MARYLAND TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. BY SEBASTIAN F. STREETER,—Seventh Annual Discourse,—20th May, 1852.
17. DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA. BY REV. DR. G. W. BURNAP,—Eighth Annual Discourse,—20th December, 1853.
18. BALTIMORE.—LONG, LONG TIME AGO, ETC., ETC. (Poems.) BY W. B. BUCHANAN, 1853.

19. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, J. SPEAR SMITH, 1st May, 1854.
20. CATALOGUE OF THE MANUSCRIPTS, MEDALS, MAPS, ETC., OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. BY LEWIS MAYER, Assistant Librarian, 1854.
21. SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF BENJAMIN BANNEKER, *the Colored Astronomer*. BY MRS. TYSON, October, 1854.
22. AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE IN JAMAICA. BY MOSES SHEPPARD, Oct., 1854.
23. MARTIN BEHAIM. BY REV. DR. J. G. MORRIS, — Ninth Annual Discourse, — 25th January, 1855.
24. MEMOIR OF BARON DE KALB. BY GEN. J. SPEAR SMITH, 7th January, 1858.
25. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, J. SPEAR SMITH, February, 1858.
26. ORIGIN OF THE JAPAN EXPEDITION. BY G. L. L. DAVIS, 1860.
27. EARLY FRIENDS; OR, QUAKERS IN MARYLAND. BY JOHN SAURIN NORRIS, 6th March, 1862.
28. WHO WERE THE EARLY SETTLERS OF MARYLAND. BY REV. DR. ETHAN ALLEN, October, 1865.
29. THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE PEABODY INSTITUTE. BY BRANTZ MAYER, April, 1866.
30. ANNUAL DISCOURSE (THE TENTH) BEFORE THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BY THE HON. WM. FELL GILES, (two editions of this,) 17th December, 1866.
31. MEMOIR OF JARED SPARKS. BY BRANTZ MAYER, 7th February, 1867.
32. HISTORY, POSSESSIONS AND PROSPECTS OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, — INAUGURAL DISCOURSE OF BRANTZ MAYER AS PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY, 7th March, 1867. This is the first issue of the Publication Fund.
- Nos. 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38: SIX CATALOGUES OF EXHIBITIONS OF PAINTINGS, STATUARY, ETC., by the Society in its Gallery, during the Years 1848, 1849, 1850, 1853, 1855, 1858.

The Second Historical Discourse, on GEORGE CALVERT, FIRST LORD BALTIMORE, by Mr. J. P. KENNEDY, was criticised by the late B. U. CAMPBELL, who published his review in the U. S. Catholic Magazine. This was responded to by Mr. KENNEDY, in the same Magazine, in April, 1846, accompanied by Remarks of the Editor. Both articles were subsequently issued in pamphlet form, and are now extremely rare. They should, if possible, be obtained by collectors of our society's publications, and bound with Mr. Kennedy's discourse, as they throw much light on the early history of the settlement of the Province of Maryland.

SKETCHES OF THE EARLY MISSIONS TO MARYLAND, formed a paper, — read before our society by the late B. U. CAMPBELL, on January 8th, 1846, — which was also published in the U. S. Catholic Magazine, (Vol. VII., Nos. 10 and 11.)

A paper on ROSAS AND THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, was read before the society by the late SEBASTIAN F. STREETER, and subsequently published by him as the third article in the July number, 1849, of the North American Review.

BRANTZ MAYER, *President M. H. S.*

BALTIMORE, 1st June, 1867.

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